

California GARDEN

MARCH-APRIL 2005

Volume 96 No. 2

\$3.00



HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Mar. 4-6 Fri.-Sun.

20th ANNUAL SPRING HOME/GARDEN SHOW
"Garden Marketplace" Sponsored by the San Diego Horticultural Society showcasing "The Garden Masters Exposition 2005" Del Mar Fairgrounds, Fri. 12-7 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$12. Seniors receive a special admission price of \$6 on opening day only; half-price tickets are available on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday after 3 p.m. for \$6. Children 12 and under free.

Mar. 4-6 Fri.-Sun.

SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW
"Celebration of Orchids 60 Years of Excellence." 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Earl Warren Showgrounds Exhibit Building, 3400 Calle Real, (Highway 101 and Los Positas Rd) Santa Barbara. www.sborchidshow.com. General \$10, Seniors and students w/I.D. \$8, children free.

Mar. 5 Sat.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL ROSE SOCIETY Hands-on demonstration on pruning roses at the Rose Gardens. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Magee Park, Highway 101, Carlsbad. Bring gloves and shears. 760/804-0875 or www.coastalrose.org. All are welcome. Free.

Mar. 5 Sat.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Fri., and the first and third Saturdays. SDFA members can check out books. (Membership \$15 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

Mar. 5 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Citrus and Avocado Care and Culture. 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or, Designer Plant Palettes. 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Mar. 5 Sat.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Class on Arbor Day: Selecting and Planting Drought-Tolerant Trees by Dan Simpson, educator and San Diego Zoo arborist. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614 or www.thegarden.org. Free.

Mar. 5-6 Sat.-Sun.

TAKA SUMI-E SOCIETY Japanese Art, Culture, and Tradition Annual Art Exhibition. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. both days. Sumi-e, the art of Japanese brush painting, will be demonstrated, original works by society members, and wearable art will be displayed. Traditions will be showcased through venerated tea ceremony and Japanese dance and music. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. 619/255-2501 Free.

Mar. 7 Mon.

CGCI FLORAL DESIGN FORUM 2004-2005 'New' Designs of NGC, Inc. Our local designers will fill the room with the new designs and Pauline Secchi will demonstrate and explain the designs. Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 12:30-3:00 p.m. 760/749-9608. \$8.

Mar. 8 Tues.

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY Monthly Meeting with David Lemon, Director of Research for Oglevee Ltd.,

one of the nation's largest geranium producers. 7:30 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Drawing and refreshments included. Free.

Mar. 9 Wed.

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB Monthly Meeting. Kathy Taylor de Murillo, noted San Diego area floral designer, will demonstrate floral designs for a variety of table settings. 10 a.m. Masonic Center, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., S.D. www.plgc.org or 619/276-0209. Free.

Mar. 9 Wed.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Class on Fire Safety in the Landscape by Dan Carney, Landscape Architect for the City of San Diego Water Department. 7-8:30 p.m. at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614 or www.thegarden.org. Free.

Mar. 12 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Water Gardening. 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or, Spring Rose Care. 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Mar. 12 Sat.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Class on Xeriscape: Lush Landscape on a Low Water Budget by Dee Maranhao. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614 or www.thegarden.org. \$10 members, \$13 non-members.

Mar. 12-13 Sat.-Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Herb Festival, Plant Sale, and Tomatomania, a celebration of all things tomato. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036, ext. 206. Regular garden admission.

Mar. 13 Sun.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Class on Pruning and Fertilizing by Cindy Drake. 1-3 p.m. at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614 or www.thegarden.org. \$6 members, \$9 non-members.

Mar. 14 Mon.

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Monthly Meeting "Water in a Pot." by Greg Speichert, executive director of the Prairie Woods Botanical Garden in Cedar Lake Indiana and publisher of Water Gardening magazine. 6:30 p.m. Surfside Race Place at Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. Free.

Mar. 15 Tues.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL ROSE SOCIETY Monthly Meeting. 7 p.m. Includes speaker, drawing, and light refreshments at Heritage Hall, Magee Park, Highway 101, Carlsbad. An informal Rose-a-holics q&a discussion begins at 6 p.m. 760/931-9863 or www.coastalrose.org. All are welcome. Free.

Mar. 15 Tues.

★GREEN & WHITE FLORAL ARRANGEMENT FOR SAINT PATRICK'S DAY with Velma West. SDFA Workshop. (Part 1 of 3 part series on American Contemporary Flower Arranging) 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Bring any container, clippers, and flowers. \$50 for series of 3 classes or \$20 each class. **Pre-registration required.** Contact SDFA 619/232/5762.

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FRONT COVER photograph of *Salvia Clevelandii* by Betty Newton

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WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, 513-4900, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway CA 92064-6847

FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want
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**"HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR", CONTINUED FROM
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Mar. 16 Wed.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY Monthly Meeting. Ikebana Demonstration at 7 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Mar. 16-20 Wed.-Sun.

SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW at the Cow Palace. Wed.-Sat. 9 a.m.- 8 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Group rates available and discounts at certain hotels. See www.gardenshow.com or call 206/789-5333.

Mar. 19 Sat.

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY** open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. see March 5 for details.

Mar. 19 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Spring Lawn Care. 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or, Propagation 101-Grafting, Dividing, Rooting. 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Mar. 19 Sat.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Class on Home Compost Education Workshop by Certified Master Composters. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Compost bins for sale. 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614 or www.thegarden.org. Free.

Mar. 19-20 Sat.-Sun.

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL-Chapter 119 37th Annual Japanese Flower Arrangement and Cultural Exhibition. 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. both days. Ikebana, Silk Painting, Bonkei-Tray Landscapes, Dance, and Music demonstrations as well as special displays. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101 (and Room 102 on Sunday). 619/223-8879. Free.

Mar. 20 Sun.

ANZA BORREGO DESERT NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION 7th Annual Desert Garden Tour of four private gardens. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. ABDNHA members \$12, non-members \$17, early bird tickets purchased before March 10, save \$2. Mail check to: ABDNHA, PO Box 310, Borrego Springs, CA 92004-0310 or email naturecenter@uia.net. 760/767-3098.

Mar. 22 Tues.

★**EASTER FLORAL ARRANGEMENT** with Velma West. SDFA Workshop. (Part 2 of 3 part series on American Contemporary Flower Arranging) 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Bring any container, clippers, and flowers. Extra flowers will be available for purchase by reservation. \$20 for each class. **Pre-registration required.** Send check to SDFA, 1650 El Prado, Room 105, San Diego, CA 92101-1622.

Mar. 26 Sat.

ANZA BORREGO DESERT NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION Native Plant Show and Sale. Borrego Desert Nature Center. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 652 Palm Canyon Dr., one block west of Christmas Center. 760/767-3098. www.abdnha.org.

Mar. 26 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on General Orchid Care. 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or, Introduction to Garden Railroad. 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Mar. 26 - Apr. 14th

BALBOA PARK BOTANICAL BUILDING Easter Lily Display. 300 Easter lilies amongst the 2,100 permanent tropical plants, carnivorous plant bog, and "touch and smell" garden. Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Closed Thursday and City holidays.) Free.

Mar. 29 Tues.

★**AMERICAN CONTEMPORARY FLORAL ARRANGEMENT - SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE** Beginner through Flower Show Participant with Velma West. SDFA Workshop. (Part 3 of 3 part series on American Contemporary Flower Arranging) 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Bring any container, clippers, and flowers. \$20 for each class. **Pre-registration required.** Send check to SDFA, 1650 El Prado, Room 105, San Diego, CA 92101-1622.

Apr. 2 Sat.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL ROSE SOCIETY Hands-on demonstration on pruning roses at the Rose Gardens. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Magee Park, Highway 101, Carlsbad. Bring gloves and shears. 760/804-0875 or www.coastalrose.org. All are welcome. Free.

Apr. 2 Sat.

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY** will be open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. See March 5th for more details.

Apr. 2 Sat.

SAN DIEGO SPRING HOME GARDENING SEMINAR Select from 40 classes, sponsored by Master Gardener Association. Marina Village Conference Center. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Registration deadline March 22.** \$33.00 for 4 seminars. Call 858/694-2860 or www.mastergardenersandiego.org.

Apr. 2 Sat.

UC IRVINE ARBORETUM "April Showers of Flowers." Plant Sale. Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Corner of Campus Dr. and Jamboree Rd. on UCI North Campus. 949/824-5833. Free.

Apr. 2 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Tomatoes with Steve Goto from Goto Nursery. 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or, Rose Show Preparatory Class. 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Apr. 2 Sat.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Compost Sale Event with the Solana Center for Environmental Innovation. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Compost Bins and Worm Bins on sale to Unincorporated County Residents at subsidized rate! To reserve a compost bin please call 760/436-7986, ext. 218. 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon.

Apr. 2-3 Sat.-Sun.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY Annual Cutting Sale 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A great and economical way to begin growing or adding to your collection. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. 619/443-4795 or 760/451-1472. Free admission and planting demonstration.

Apr. 3 Sun.

FALLBROOK VILLAGE ASSOCIATION "The Art of the Flower, the Festival: A One-Day Outdoor Festival." 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Main & Alvarado Streets, downtown Fallbrook. Free.

Apr. 3-30 Daily

FALLBROOK VILLAGE ASSOCIATION "The Art of the Flower, the Show: A Month-Long Fine Art Show." Mon.-

- Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 1-4 p.m. at 103 South Main at Alvarado, Fallbrook. Donation \$5.
- Apr. 4 Mon.**
CGCI FLORAL DESIGN FORUM 2004-2005 James Lynch, AIFD Chatworth, CA. From "Floral Designs with Distinction." Get tips from a professional. How to, when to... Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 12:30-3:00 p.m. \$8 Door. 760/749-9608.
- Apr. 6 Wed.**
WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Class on Living with Nature and Fire by Kay Stewart, Landscape Architect. 7-8 p.m. at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614 or www.thegarden.org. Free.
- Apr. 8-10 Fri.-Sun.**
SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
 59th Annual Spring Orchid Show & Sale. "Ooh-la-la!" Fri. 4-9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South. www.sdorchids.com. Adults \$6, kids under 12 free.
- Apr. 9 Sat.**
CA SIGMA DELTA, SAN DIEGO unit of the California State Association of Parliamentarians Annual Leadership Workshop. A community service workshop for association/Society Officers and members who would like to improve their skills in planning, running, summarizing, assessing, and participating in a Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and membership meetings of small and large organizations. 8:30 a.m.-noon. Christ Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 4761 Cass St., Pacific Beach. **Advanced registration required.** Contact Sara Wells 619/435-1350 or jwells@san.rr.com or Dennispillane@earthlink.net or visit www.bobn10ab.com/csapsd. \$10 for materials.
- Apr. 9 Sat.**
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Bonsai. 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or, Heirloom Tomatoes and Vegetables by special guest Steve Goto. 9:30 a.m. & 6th Annual Rose Show at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.
- Apr. 11 Mon.**
SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Monthly Meeting "California Natives for Your Garden." with Bart O'Brien, Director of Horticulture at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, CA 6:30 p.m. Surfside Race Place at Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. Free.
- Apr. 12 Tues.**
SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY Monthly Meeting with special speaker Jim Zemick, a commercial geranium breeder known world-wide. 7:30 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Drawing and refreshments included. Free.
- Apr. 16 Sat.**
MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB OF OCEANSIDE 9th Annual Gardeners' Market Plant Sale. 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Wal-Mart west Oceanside store, outside the garden shop, 2100 Vista Way, Jefferson freeway exit. Fundraiser for MiraCosta College student scholarships. 760/643-0177.
- Apr. 16 Sat.**
QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Spring Bamboo Sale. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.org.
- Apr. 16 Sat.**
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. See March 5th for more details.
- Apr. 16 Sat.**
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Fairy Garden Workshop. 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or, Citrus Varieties and Care. 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.
- Apr. 16 Sat.**
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY Lecture and Book Signing with David Leaser, author of *Palm Trees: A Story in Photographs*. 11 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271.
- Apr. 16 Sat.**
WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Class on Xeriscape: Lush Landscape on a Low Water Budget by Dee Maranhao. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614 or www.thegarden.org. \$10 members, \$13 non-members.
- Apr. 16-17 Sat.-Sun.**
CORONADO FLOWER SHOW 80th Annual Flower Show "MILESTONES: Our 80th Year" Spreckels Park between 6th & 7th on Orange Ave. Sat. 1-5:30 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$3 adults, children and CFA members free. www.coronadoflowershow.com.
- Apr. 16-17 Sat.-Sun.**
DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB 2005 Flower Show. Sat. 1:30-5:30 p.m. and Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lilac Elementary School, 30109 Lilac Rd., Valley Center. www.dosvallesgardenclub.org. Free.
- Apr. 16-17 Sat.-Sun.**
EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY Annual Show and Sale. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.
- Apr. 17 Sun.**
BUENA VISTA NATIVE PLANT CLUB 3rd Annual Native Plant Garden Tour sponsored by The Oceanside Coastal Neighborhood Association. 2 p.m. Starting at St. Mary's School, 515 Wisconsin St., Oceanside. Visit 10 residential gardens. www.oside.org.
- Apr. 17 Sun.**
FALLBROOK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE "The 19th annual Avocado Festival" Celebrating all-things-avocado. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Fallbrook St. to Mission, downtown Fallbrook. Free.
- Apr. 19 Tues.**
CALIFORNIA COASTAL ROSE SOCIETY Monthly Meeting. 7 p.m. Includes speaker, drawing and light refreshments at Heritage Hall, Magee Park, Highway 101, Carlsbad. An informal Rose-a-holics q&a discussion begins at 6 p.m. 760/931-9863 or www.coastalrose.org. All are welcome. Free.
- Apr. 19 Tues.**
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Special Dedication of Plaque Honoring A. D. Robinson followed by a short tour of the Botanical Building by knowledgeable Park Staff. Light refreshments will be offered in room 101 after the tour. Participants are to meet outside the Botanical Building, however, the time of this event was not confirmed prior to printing. Please call the SDFA office for details. Free.

Apr. 19 Tues.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING "An Evening with Mr. Robinson and Miss Sessions" A short hysterical, *oops*, historical play about the founding of SDFA presented by the SDFA players. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101, 6:30 p.m. Free. Catered dinner precedes the meeting at 5:30 p.m. **Reservations required by April 15th** for dinner. \$11 members, \$15 non-members. 619/232-5762.

Apr. 23 Sat.

POINT LOMA GARDEN TOUR Sponsored by the Dana Unit of Children's Hospital Auxiliary, San Diego. Includes Garden Boutique. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Advanced tickets \$15 available at Walter Andersen Nursery, Mission Hills Nursery, or Cottage Antiques. \$18 on day of tour. Check in at Point Loma Assembly, 3035 Talbot Street.

Apr. 23 Sat.

3RD ANNUAL ELFIN FOREST GARDEN FESTIVAL "Published Perennials." Visit gardens that have appeared in print or on television locally, regionally, or nationally. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Advance tickets are \$20, and additional \$12 for gourmet lunch. \$30 day of event. Pick up tickets at Elfin Valley Nursery, 20110 Elfin Forest Lane, Escondido or see www.elfinforestgardens.info and order tickets online. 760/471-7224.

Apr. 23 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Cymbidium Orchid Repotting #1. 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or, First Trend Show. 9:30 a.m. (Please call for details and cost on this special event) at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Apr. 23-24 Sat.-Sun.

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB 74th Annual Standard Flower Show "Around the World in Flowers" and Plant Sale. Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook. Sat. 2-6 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 760/728-6373 or www.geocities.com/fallbrookgardenclub. Free.

Apr. 23-24 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB Annual Spring Show. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Bonsai trees, pots, accessories, and plants for sale. Free.

Apr. 25 Mon.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Lecture 7-9 p.m. "Living with Nature and Fire: Reducing Fire Risks at Your Home Site." Drew Hubbell, a proponent of sustainable architecture and green building materials, and Greg Rubin, an expert native landscape designer, join forces to illuminate the ways San Diego County residents can live with nature and fire. 619/255-0203 or www.sdnhm.org. Free.

Apr. 29 Fri.

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB 17th Annual Spring Gardens on Tour. Visit 12 Poway residents with habitats and garden styles ranging from formal to wild, or desert to woodland. Includes vendors, specialty nurseries, artists, and more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tickets available at Vons Market, Plaza Center, Rancho Bernardo on Sat. 4/23, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and Fri. 4/29, 8:30-11 a.m., also at the Escondido Historical Society Grape Day Park, 321 N. Broadway, Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. By mail before 4/21, make checks payable to Lake Hodges Native Plant Club, send with **Stamped Self Addressed Envelope** to Donna

Zimmer, 1428 Via Valente, Escondido, CA 92029.

Apr. 29-30 Fri.-Sat.

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB Community Flower Show. "Musical Memories: Our Gift to the Community." Plant and craft sale with the show. Fri. 12-4 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Masonic Center, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., S.D. www.plgc.org or 619/276-0209.

Apr. 30 Sat. (again May 7 and 14th)

FRIENDS OF HORTENSE MILLER GARDEN "Coffee Mornings at the Hortense Miller Garden" You are invited to a gala morning at this famous natural garden on a hillside in Laguna Beach. Visitors will tour the garden, visit with Hortense Miller, and also tour her mid-century modern house filled with her art and 1950's furnishings. Tasty and unusual snacks and drinks will be served in the garden. Limited to 25 visitors each day. 9 a.m.-12 noon. Suggested donation \$30 per person. For reservations, please call Marsha Bode at 949/499-5518.

Apr. 30 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Epiphyllum. 9 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or, Organic Gardening with special guest speaker, Giselle. 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Apr. 30-May 1 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO IRIS SOCIETY SHOW "Iris with Music" Sat. Noon-5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

Apr. 30-May 1 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY 78th Annual Rose Show. Sat. 1-4 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Balboa Park Club. 858/675-7042 or www.sdrosesociety.org. \$3 adults, children 12 and under are free.

May 2 Mon.

CGCI FLORAL DESIGN FORUM 2004-2005 Velma West, Escondido. Teacher, artist, creator of Floral Design Forum and a mentor to many. She sheeps the principles and elements of design even when very creative. Carlsbad Women's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 12:30-3 p.m. \$8 Door. 760/749-9608.

May 7 Sat.

9th ANNUAL CLAIREMONT GARDEN TOUR

Sponsored by the Clairemont Town Council. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A compost demonstration will be available, and the Master Gardener Association will be exhibiting and answering your garden questions. For details check www.clairemont-tc.net or call 858/831-9555. Free.

May 7-8 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY Casa del Prado Courtyard Sale. Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Annual Mother's Day Show. 11:00 a.m.-4 p.m., Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

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BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619/232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Volunteer guided. Various topics.

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Volunteer guided. History

oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Canyonier Walks. Sat-Sun. Sept-June.

619/232-3821 ext 203 or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times and directions. Free.

SAN DIEGO ZOO ORCHID ODYSSEY.

Third Friday of every month. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., showcasing orchids from Papua New Guinea, Central and South America, Africa, Thailand, Australia, China, and Vietnam. Free with Zoo admission.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Call for times on docent led garden tours, weekly or monthly events, and classes for kids and adults. Free composting class 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., first Saturday of the month. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com. General Admission.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks.

Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided

Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation

Garden is home to 4+ acres of beautiful, award-winning low water use landscaping and educational displays. Docent led tours Sat. 10:30 a.m. and Sun. 1:30 p.m. 619/660-0614. Check website calendar for free classes and special events at www.thegarden.org.

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND

GARDEN Exquisite Asian garden. 404 Third Avenue, San Diego. Tues.-Sat. 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 12-4 p.m. Free.

THE HUNTINGTON is open Tuesday through Friday

noon to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$10 students (12-18), \$6 for youth (5-11) children under 5 and members free. Group rate (10+) \$11. 626/405-2100 or www.huntington.org.

"DOWN TO EARTH" with Tom Piergrosi daily at 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on CTN. Time Warner 22, Cox 19 or 24 and Adelphia 66.

GARDENING CLASSES

BETTY NEWTON

8-WEEK COURSE

Landscaping: Trees, Shrubs and Flowers (Continuation of previous trimester. New students admitted.)

Beginning April 7 Thurs. A.M.

8:50 a.m.-Noon. Foothills Adult Center,

Room 12. 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. Fee

JOYCE GEMMEL

8-WEEK COURSE

Summer Vegetable Gardens

Beginning Wed. April 6 thru May 27 A.M.

9 a.m.-12:10 p.m. Lemon Grove Community Center, 3146 School Lane, Lemon Grove 619/401/4122. Fee.

Beginning Fri. April 8 thru May 25 A.M.

9 a.m.-12:10 p.m. Foothills Adult Center, Room 12. 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401/4122. Fee.

Deadline for submission to HORTICULTURAL

CALENDAR for MAY-JUNE issue is MARCH 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations. Please send events to calendar@sdfloal.org.



12755 Danielson Court
Poway, CA 92064
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April 16 - 17 Sat. 1:30-5:30 Sun. 11-4
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Free Admission Plant Sale Refreshments
Lilac Elementary School 30109 Lilac Road
Valley Center www.dosvallesgardenclub.org

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- A gala tour of this famous Laguna Beach garden
 - Meet Hortense in her mid-century modern house filled with her art and 1950's furnishings
 - Food and drinks will be served in the garden
- Three Saturdays: April 30, May 7, May 14, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, suggested donation \$30 per person. Limited to 25 visitors each day.

For reservations: 949 499-5518

Gleanings . . .

gathered by barbara jones

EASTER LILY . . .

I always knew that the weather on the other side of the equator was opposite to ours, but the first time I really experienced it was one holiday season in Japan. In an exhibit I was making a flower arrangement for the Christmas holiday typical of my country, the USA. The ladies from countries where Christmas is not widely celebrated made arrangements that would be traditional for celebrating the New Year. The lady next to me remarked that she was pleased that she had been able to find Christmas Lilies because it just would not seem like Christmas without them. I looked carefully at her arrangement for Christmas Lilies but all I saw was Easter Lilies. Yes, Christmas in Australia is in mid-summer. In our summer Easter Lilies bloom naturally.

Lilium is a genus with approximately 100 species. Lilies are classified into nine divisions, but usually are classified as Asiatic, Oriental, or longiflorum. Asiatic lilies are almost every color except blue and black and are scent free, Orientals are mostly white, cream, or pink and have a strong fragrance. In both kinds the color can be solid or have spots or stripes and/or a different color throat. Easter lilies, *Lilium longiflorum*, are pure white and delicately scented.

Easter lilies are easily forced into bloom and are always available in the early spring — usually as potted plants. The stamens have pollen that is bright yellow and can stain anything it touches. So, the stamens should

be removed as soon as the blossoms open. (It is easy to remove the stamens using a fork.) Cut stems should be immersed in slightly warm water and if the water is kept clean the cut stem should last at least 10 days. It does not like water additives. Spent blooms should be removed, and the stem recut when the water is changed.

Easter Lilies are native to Southern Japan and Taiwan.

CHANGING WATER . . .

It's spring and bunches of flowers are available at farmer's markets, stores, and florists. Mixed bouquets are very popular and after placing them in a vase it is quite a chore to renew the water. (If the water becomes dirty the flowers will die quickly.) There is a quick and easy way to change the water. Tie a cord around the stems just above the rim of the vase. (A shoe lace works great.) Pull the flowers out, rinse the stems with running water, clean the vase and refill with water, cut a small amount off the bottom of the stems, and replace in the vase and remove the cord. Done!

STATE FLOWERS . . .

Don't know why you need this information except for a trivia show, but here goes.

Alabama•camellia (1959)
Alaska•forget-me-not (1949)
Arizona•saguaro cactus (1931)
Arkansas•apple blossom (1901)
California•golden poppy (1903)
Colorado•mt. columbine (1899)
Connecticut•mt. laurel (1907)
Delaware•peachblossom (1895)
Florida•orange blossom (1909)

Georgia•Cherokee rose (1916)
Hawaii•yellow hibiscus (1988)
Idaho•syringe (1931)
Illinois•violet (1906)
Indiana•peony (1957)
Iowa•wild rose (1897)
Kansas•sunflower (1903)
Kentucky•tulip poplar (1994)
Louisiana•magnolia (1900)
Maine•white pine cone (1895)
Maryland•blk-eyed susan (1918)
Massachusetts•mayflower (1918)
Michigan•apple blossom (1897)
Minnesota•lady slipper (1902)
Mississippi•magnolia (1952)
Missouri•hawthorn (1922)
Montana•bitterroot (1895)
Nebraska•goldenrod (1895)
Nevada•sagebrush (1959)
New Hampshire•lilac (1919)
New Jersey•violet (1913)
New Mexico•yucca (1927)
New York•rose (1955)
North Carolina•dogwood (1941)
North Dakota•wild rose (1907)
Ohio•scarlet carnation (1904)
Oklahoma•mistletoe (1893)
Oregon•Oregon grape (1899)
Pennsylvania•mt. laurel (1933)
Rhode Island•violet (1968)
S. Carolina•y. jessamine (1924)
S. Dakota•pasqueflower (1903)
Tennessee•iris (1933)
Texas•bluebonnet (1901)
Utah•sego lily (1911)
Vermont•red clover (1894)
Virginia•Am. dogwood (1918)
Washington•rhododendron (1892)
West Virginia•rhododendron (1903)
Wisconsin•wood violet (1949)

SAN DIEGO'S FLOWER . . .

As part of the 200th anniversary of the founding of San Diego, the red carnation was voted to be the official city flower.

100 YEAR HISTORY OF SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

BY BARBARA S.JONES

SDFA is celebrating it's 98th birthday in April. This is the first of a series about the Association.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION is about to celebrate its one-hundredth birthday. Here is the beginning of the story of who, when, how, and why.

As in wars and other major events, the formation of the San Diego Floral Association was precipitated by a somewhat trivial incident. Returning to San Diego, after two years abroad, I was full of a Flower Show I had attended in the Temple Gardens in London, and when I interviewed Forecaster Fred Carpenter for a preview of the weather, which he declined to give, I spilled over about the Temple, and Flower Shows in general, enough to enthuse him with the idea of one for San Diego. Mr. C. was some kind of an officer in the Chamber of Commerce, and he brought up the matter before that august body, which appointed a committee to further the idea. This committee was Carpenter, Gifford, the olive man, and I, and we duly forgathered and decided to call a public meeting. The meeting was held in the Express Office on Broadway, and had a fair attendance. My mind had become set on an independent organization for the job. I was then, and still am, rather afraid of committees, as they usually originate in buck passing, and have a facility for continuing the process.

Mr. Carpenter took the chair and called on me for the opening argument. Others spoke, all in favor of the idea A resolution to form the San Diego Floral Association was put and unanimously adopted and signatures were taken on a scrap of paper.

This was written by A.D. Robinson in *California Garden* in July 1939.

The meeting described was held on April 13, 1907. It was decided to form a temporary organization with A. D. Robinson as president. The main goal of the organization was to beautify the area. The second meeting, where the Constitution and Bylaws were presented, was held on April 15. Dues of \$1.00 per year were collected. The first Regular Meeting was held on April 19. It was decided to hold a Flower Show on May 29 at the Unity Hall on 6th Street between B and C to

exhibit the abundance of plants that could be grown here. It was to be free and free plants and seeds would be distributed. It was a huge success and all the 5,000 brochures were taken. The total cost of the event was \$70.00 (music \$40.50, souvenir cards \$3.50, labor/hauling \$11.00, advertising \$2.00, hall rental \$10.00, lost vase \$3.00.)

The first Annual Meeting was held at the Chamber of Commerce on June 10. At the July meeting it was announced that 275 bouquets had been sent to the delegates of the Southern California Editorial Association meeting and 25 bouquets had been sent to sick tourists. It was decided that there would be music at all meetings. At the August meeting a fall flower show with official classes and prizes was planned. There were 450 members.

It is interesting to realize how this city of under 40,000 people so enthusiastically adopted this organization and its goals. Though a small city it was relatively sophisticated and opera, theater, dance, musicales, poetry reading, plus art exhibits were enjoyed. They were interested in having gardens, but the majority of the residents was from parts of the world where the water, soil, and weather were different. Unknown plants flourished and the old stand-bys would not grow. Kate Sessions was already busily introducing new plants and had opened eyes to the possibility of lush tropical gardens by planting Hotel del Coronado. In 1892, she made an agreement with the City that in exchange for the use of property in City Park (now Balboa Park) each year she would plant 100 plants in the park and provide 200 boxed plants for use in landscaping streets, schools, and other parks. In 1904, the first Arbor Day was held and over 2,500 school children participated in planting 60 pine trees on the western edge of City Park near Cypress Street. For many years Arbor Day was celebrated by children planting trees at their schools. Between 1904 and 1906 14,000 trees and shrubs were planted in City Park. Lomaland, build in 1896 by Theosophist Katherine Tingly, was a marvelous place of fascinating buildings and exotic gardens. A number of elaborate private gardens had been built on the west side of City Park, on Point Loma, in Coronado, and La Jolla. People were eager to have their own gardens if they only knew how and what to plant. And that is what the Floral Association did — told and showed them how and

through the generosity of members even gave them free plants, cuttings, and seeds. But, that was just the start of their activities. □

Barbara S. Jones has been gardening in San Diego for over sixty years and writing for California Garden for thirty-one years.

[At Floral Association's General Dinner Meeting on April 19, 2005, there will be a free program at 6:30 p.m., "An evening with Mr. Robinson and Miss Kate," a short hysterical, oops, historical play about the founding of SDFA presented by the SDFA players.]

MUSICAL MEMORIES

Point Loma Garden Club
presents our **25th FLOWER SHOW**
as our "gift to the community"

PLANT AND CRAFT SALE

Friday, April 29th, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 30th 12:-4:00

Masonic Hall, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., Ocean Beach

Beautiful Plants for Sale at Moderate Prices

**MiraCosta Horticulture Club
of Oceanside**

9th annual Gardener's Market Plant Sale

Saturday, April 16

8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Where: Wal-Mart west Oceanside store

(outside garden shop)

2100 Vista Way

Jefferson freeway exit in Oceanside

Come meet the friendly club. (760) 643-0177

San Diego Horticultural Society

Meetings 2nd Monday of every month, 6:30pm

Free Admission – Everyone Welcome!

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Join us for a guest speaker, plant sales, plant display.
Meetings are open to all. Membership brings you:

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| ☛ Local garden tours | ☛ Annual Garden Party |
| ☛ Discounts at nurseries | ☛ and much more! |

Upcoming Events & Meetings:

March 14: Water Gardening in Containers

Greg Speichert, author of the *Encyclopedia of Water Garden Plants*, will give us tips and techniques for water gardening in containers.

April 11: California Native Plants for the Garden

Bart O'Brien, director of the all-native Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, has a new book out and exciting ways to use natives in our gardens.

**May 9 Special Event: 3-D Slide Show on Orchids
& Other Floral Wonders. Tickets on sale soon.**

Info: www.sdhortsoc.org
or (760) 730-3268



SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

NOW is the time to join! Learn how easy and fun it is to grow orchids. Meet the experts through society activities including lectures, tours, open houses, and classes.

The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

All this and a great monthly newsletter for only \$15.00 (single membership) or \$20.00 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDCOS and mail to:



**Tess Taylor
SDCOS Membership
P.O. Box 161020
San Diego, CA 92176
tess_mazza@hotmail.com**



SALVIAS TO SAVOR®

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

SAGES, (*SALVIAS*) ARE A very talented group of plants. This genus is comprised of annuals, perennials, and shrubs. Some sages can season your food, others may cure your ills, many can lower your bills, some summon hummingbirds, others provide interesting aromas, and—last but not never least—many look devastatingly lovely in the garden (and bunny rabbits usually leave them alone).

Since there are so many different kinds to choose from, it helps to have the advice of an expert. I talked to John Allen of Rancho Jojoba Nursery in Lakeside (619-561-0751). The Website is www.ranchojojoba.biz [coming soon]. All kinds of green goodies are available at this nursery, but they specialize in drought-tolerant plants. If they don't have what you're looking for, they'll be glad to search around and get it for you, saving you time plus gas money. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday; and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Some of John's favorite California native salvias are:

(1) Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*) - There are several cultivars that accept garden water and are a bit more compact than the species: 'Whirly Blue', 'Allen Chickering', 'Winnifred Gilman', and 'Celestial Blue'. To keep tidy, trim back after flowering is finished.

(2) Mexican bush sage (*S. leucantha*) - A sprawling plant especially loved by hummers.

(3) Black sage (*S. mellifera*) - 'Terra Seca' is a cultivar that grows 1 to 2 feet high and over 6 feet wide.

(4) White sage (*S. apiana*) - 'Vicki Romo' is more compact than the species. White sage has a wild, distinctive aroma.

(5) Munz sage (*S. munzii*) - Pretty tidy; clear blue flower spike. Takes a variety of soils, and has a "sweetish, skunky" fragrance; garden water tolerant.

(6) Rose sage (*S. pachyphylla*) - A really pretty bloomer, nearly year-round, with pink calyx and blue flower.

(7) *S. 'Bee's bliss'* - Blue-gray foliage; prostrate, good spreading habit.

(8) *S. 'Dara's choice'* - Aromatic, low-growing.

(9) Purple sage (*S. leucophylla*) - Cultivars include 'Point Sal', 'Amethyst Bluff'.

SALVIA AS HUMMINGBIRD SUPPER

As people who appreciate hummers (the bird, not the car) know, there are many kinds of nectar-bearing plants that attract our little feathered frenzies. Sages of all kinds are at the top of the list. In my yard, hummers seem to like the appropriately-named native Hummingbird sage (*S. spathacea*). From one plant you can get a LOT of coverage; it spreads by creeping rhizomes. The fragrance is delightful. Flowers are red and very tiny. Just to see what the attraction was, the other day I walked around my property, stopping here and there to nibble flowers from various salvia varieties, some native and some exotic. Usually, the amount of sweet nectar in each floret was minuscule.

"This seems like a lot of work to me," I said to a hummer who was hovering close to me.

Neighbors who happened to be driving by had no comment.

Salvia nectar is also slurped by some of the larger butterfly species, those that have a longer proboscis (the sucking organ of a butterfly or other invertebrate). Cloudless sulfurs and tiger swallowtails visit sage, and a monarch butterfly was seen nectaring at an exotic *S. melissodora*, or as I call it, the Grape Kool Aid sage.

SALVIA AS A WATER SAVER

Many salvias need little if any watering. This will help to lighten the workload and the water bill. The California native species are drought-tolerant, although many cultivars will readily accept some garden water and may even thank you by blooming more vigorously.



Many exotic species, especially those from Chile or South Africa, are also drought tolerant.

SALVIA AS A COOKING HERB

S. officinalis is the sage usually used in cooking. Many types of dishes benefit from sage's distinctive flavor. The pretty purple flowers of another variety I grow, clary sage (*S. sclarea*), attract hummingbirds, unless I want to take their pictures. In olden times, clary sage was added to Rhine wine and also substituted for hops in beer. If you imbibe, you may choose to try it yourself. If you are a teetotaler, you can use this sage to make tea.

Or you can just go out to a restaurant.

SALVIA AS A HEAD COVERING

Nestled among the bulging boulders in my backyard, there is a little nook in which I have secreted the hollow concrete head of an androgenous-looking individual. I had purchased the head in a moment of weakness at a garden shop. It fitted perfectly in the little rocky nook but needed a plant to fill the top of the head to give it a hirsute look. I would have to water the plant-filled head myself; the automatic sprinklers would not reach.

What to do?

I selected *S. chamaedryoides*, an electric-blue sage, which I planted directly behind the head. The branches of small grey-green leaves sweep gracefully over and around the stone-faced individual, thus giving it the appearance of having a great head of hair. Plus it has tiny bright clear blue flowers from time to time.

And I only water it when I remember to (so you can guess just how often that is).

SALVIA AS A MEDICINE

In a book about ancient herbs, which I purchased at the J. Paul Getty Museum, the genus name *Salvia* is from the Latin *salvere*, to be in good health. *S. officinalis*, *S. pomifera*, and *S. triloba* were used by the Greeks and Romans. Dioscorides, an ancient medical man, advised using sage to stop bleeding and clean wild ulcers. Added to wine, sage was said to cure spleen pain, dysentery, and snake bite (for those of us who live in East County).

It also was said to dye the hair black.

SALVIA AS A SAVIOR

Got a need for easy-care greenery?
Got a ballooning water bill?
Got a hummingbird deficit?
Got a yearning for gorgeous colors?

Got an infestation of bunny rabbits?
Got a hollow garden head?
Got a turkey to stuff?
Get some salvias. □

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens, 619-390-9399.

Photograph by Betty Newton of Salvia leucantha.

SAGE ADVICE FROM A SALVIA GROWER

BY ANDY MAYCEN

HERE ARE A FEW of my favorite *Salvias* (sages). One common thread of all these is ease of care—only need once-a-year deadheading or pruning, are pest free, and provide nectar for hummingbirds.

(1) *Salvia barrelieri* - This one does double duty as a foliage plant and a flower provider. A large rosette of grey leaves gives rise to 5' spires of lavender-purple flowers during the summer. Foliage reminds me of a *Stachys* on steroids. Great used as an accent plant in full sun for its foliage alone. Flowers over a long period in the late spring through summer. Plant is very drought tolerant and will take quite a bit of frost with little damage. Ideal for San Diego gardens due to its abundant flowers, drought tolerance, and ability to withstand great heat or frost.

(2) *S. gesneriiflora* - No plant beats this one for providing a nectar source for hummers during the winter. Starts blooming in October and keeps going until May. There are many cultivars of this salvia available: 'Mole Poblano', 'Tequila', and others. Main difference is the calyx color. This is a large plant, usually 6' x 6' in my garden. The very large flowers are a brilliant red and contrast nicely with its bright green foliage. Very tropical looking, but I found this plant to be extremely cold hardy. It withstood 27° F. with little to no damage to its foliage. It does appreciate some high shade and would probably suffer in full sun in inland areas. A dwarf selection, called 'Mountain Form' is much more compact and ideal for the residential or small garden.

(3) *S. wagneriana* - Another tropical looking, winter blooming salvia. This one has large bracts and flowers which form at the tips of the branches. These first appear as large magenta clusters which then yield big pink flowers. There are different color morphs available, some with white bracts and cerise-pink flowers. This salvia has a very long bloom period

beginning in October and continuing until spring in my garden. Site this one in high shade which will also act as protection against a heavy frost.

(4) *S. dolomitica* - A great, drought-tolerant plant from South Africa. Ideal for Southern California. This one has out-performed most of my California natives in terms of its drought tolerance. A small grey shrub that yields light lavender flowers beginning in late winter and continuing into summer. Give it full sun to part shade and a little supplemental water to get it started.

(5) *S. brandegei* - A coastal Southwest native. This one is a handsome subject for any dry garden. Attractive lacquered green foliage and abundant lavender-blue flowers are the hallmark of this species. It is cloaked in flowers starting in December and the show continues until May. This salvia needs very good drainage to succeed. Very drought tolerant and easily withstands frost and heat.

(6) *S. melissodora* - A 4' tall shrub that really does bloom year round. The small, yet abundant lavender flowers have a fragrance reminiscent of grape-flavored bubble gum. Excellent year-long source of nectar for hummers and bees. Plant this one in full sun and give it regular water. Not damaged by light frosts.

(7) *S. guaranitica* - Native to South America, this salvia comes in a variety of cultivars with flowers that range from light blue to the darkest purple. Flowers are produced continually from spring until early winter. Most varieties go through a winter dormancy here in San Diego. This plant loves heat, regular water, and a little shade in the hottest part of the day. Easily propagated by root division and seed.

(8) *S. regla* - A deciduous shrub native to southern Texas and northern Mexico. Grows 4' to 6' tall. Drought tolerant when established. This salvia is a late summer-fall bloomer. Flower and calyx are a brilliant orange-red. The attractive foliage is glossy green and similar in appearance to the California native, *Ribes*. Hardy to heat and frosts.

(9) *S. miniata* - Native to Mexico. This salvia has the distinction of being a shade lover. Bright red flowers are produced summer through fall. The handsome foliage is glossy green. Adequate water and well-amended soil are key for growing this species. Best located under the high shade of a tree which will also provide winter protection, as this species is not tolerant of frost.

(10) *S. microphylla neurepia* - Also known as 'Forever Red'. This 3' to 4' tall salvia produces reddish-pink flowers year round in San Diego County. It is the perfect color for blending reds and pinks in the garden. The fragrant foliage is bright green. Likes regular water

and at least a half a day of bright sun. Tolerant of frost and some drought when established. □

Andy Maycen has been in the nursery industry for twenty years. He currently works handling propagation, variety selection, and sales for Tom Piergrossi Landscape and Nursery. He propagates two hundred varieties of San Diego-tested salvias from his garden. To locate the salvias mentioned in this article, contact Andy at 760-598-4882, andymaycen@cox.net, or John Allen at Rancho Jojoba Nursery.



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A MANSION WITH A MISSION: INTENT TO CULTIVATE THE FUTURE

BY MICHAEL DRUMMOND

THE HISTORIC AUSTIN VAL Verde Gardens are now accessible via the Internet.

Too often, “preserving” grand estates that were once alive with people, energy, and ideas makes them less vibrant than they once were. Austin Val Verde, “a mansion with a mission” in Montecito, California, enjoys a happier fate. The Austin Val Verde Foundation (AVVF) preserves not only the estate’s majestic grounds, gardens, and buildings, but its original design intent—a meeting place where people share ideas to shape our future—a “cultural landscape.”



Rear View of Estate

This is a new concept in estate preservation. Preserving “cultural landscapes” means encouraging people to use estates for learning, discovery, and discourse. Hosting vibrant, cutting-edge intellectual, artistic, and technological exchange was the intent behind California’s truly great estates. By the end of March, 2005 Austin Val Verde will be accessible to the public via multimedia technology. The Austin Val Verde Foundation invites the public to participate in educational forums that integrate many features on the estate as teaching aids by logging onto their website at

www.austinvalverdefoundation.com.

Guided by a team of renowned education experts, participants from widely varied backgrounds are now encouraged to exchange ideas and contribute to our future culture by exploring Austin Val Verde’s resources, from art and architecture to plants, technology, and science. “Here, it’s not about just looking at buildings and grounds. Look at the original intent of Austin Val Verde’s architects and landscape architects. These designers specifically created beautiful spaces for people to meet and mix—artists, writers,

intellectuals, scientists—these were technology-friendly people thinking about the future. The Austin Val Verde Foundation continues that legacy,” says Gail Jansen, Executive Director of the Austin Val Verde Foundation and architectural historian.

What does Austin Val Verde look like? “Beauty is at the core of Austin Val Verde,” says Jansen. Austin Val Verde

includes 17.4 acres of majestically landscaped grounds with views of the mountains on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other. Its landscape offers countless areas that naturally lend themselves as meeting and learning spaces. Its many features include dancing fountains, monumental columns and walls, and even a small lake. Mysterious pathways lead past ancient antiquities, exotic specimen trees, along a mountain stream, and to mirror-like reflecting pools or meditative outdoor “rooms.” Everywhere, one encounters vignettes of human imagination that changed the definition of beauty in the



Sideview of Roman Columns

twentieth century.

The garden layout and architecture were originally designed in 1915 by American architect, Bertram Goodhue (1869-1924). The Austin Val Verde house is the prototype residential example of Goodhue's inventive aesthetic that came to be known as the California Style. The garden design was later commissioned to American landscape architect, Lockwood de Forest, Jr. (1896-1949). The Val Verde commission lasted the rest of de Forest's life and became his masterpiece.

The Austins, Val Verde's former owners hosted guests with fertile, creative minds. Now everyone who is intellectually curious is invited to participate in educational programs sponsored by the AVVF. From elementary school students to single working mothers to physicists, business people, and professors, Austin Val Verde Foundation team members hope that AVVF programs will bring people from all parts of the global community together to exchange ideas. The foundation's ability to connect people is limitless. Team members use cutting edge technology to broadcast information from the grounds via new streaming video and audio equipment, some with features that are usually only used at the TV broadcast level.

"We take full advantage of the fascinating, beautiful, and historic aspects of the AVVF site by providing scholars, children, and families with

learning experiences through the medium of the Internet," says Alexey Ushakov, Director of Multi Media and Educational Content at AVVF. His talents make AVVF's rich resources available to students everywhere through virtual access. Since actual visits to the Austin Val Verde Foundation are on an invitational basis, its directors promote and encourage educational discourse over the internet and provide access to many of the foundation's valuable intellectual properties online.

AVVF team members hope to reach academics, intellectuals, and whole groups of people who are entrepreneurial, highly creative, and intellectually curious and believe that this is how people can create a beautiful

society and meaningful futures.

The Austin Val Verde Foundation Board is pleased to keep the Austin's' commitment to share with the public. The Foundation is a 501c non-profit organization that exists primarily on public donations and government grants. For more information about the Austin Val Verde Foundation, call 805-969-9852, visit www.austinvalverdefoundation.com, or call Christie Communications at 805-565-4122. □

Michael Drummond is associated with Christie Communications of Santa Barbara.

Photographs courtesy of Austin Val Verde Foundation, photographed by Bill Zeldis, Santa Barbara



Sideview with Swimming Pool



Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND *CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF*

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Barbara Conrad

NOW IS THE TIME

TO USE one half the recommended amount of fertilizer if you use "wick" watering, as it is a continuous watering system, requiring less nutrients in the well.

TO REPOT violets at least every six months with fresh soil that has been sterilized in oven or microwave.

TO ORDER named violet plants or leaves over the Internet to search for commercial african violet growers and individuals willing to do mailings.

TO LEACH with warm water or repot any violet that has fertilizer salts around the rim of the pot and/or on top of the soil.

TO ISOLATE violets from other houseplants to avoid insect infestations.

BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PUT down tubers to sprout.

TO CLEAN all pots and plantings of dead wood, leaves, and old debris.

TO PROTECT roots with a mulch.

TO START feeding; give ¼ strength of any good all-purpose plant food if feeding once a week, ½ strength if twice a month; full strength if once a month.

TO CONTROL disease and pests by spray and bait.

TO KEEP plants moist, but not wet.

TO START new plants from leaves, cuttings, or seeds.

BONSAI

San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH watering program according to the rains.

TO GRAFT deciduous plants.

TO REPOT plants; shape to conform to the container.

TO REMEMBER deciduous flowering plants need repotting every year, except quince. Conifers may go three to five years without repotting.

TO ADD small amounts of chelated iron or acidifying preparation to correct alkaline (salt) buildup.

TO WATCH for aphids and other pests.

TO WAIT until April to feed. Use a high nitrogen fertilizer for foliage growth; high phosphorus type to set flowers and fruit.

TO USE ¼-strength fertilizer spread several weeks apart, rather than using full strength only once. Measure accurately. Too much fertilizer can burn roots and cause leaf damage.

BROMELIADS

Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CHECK plants for scale especially during spring when scale is most likely to appear.

TO TREAT plants with scale by dipping or spraying them thoroughly with a solution of Cygon 2E according to directions on the label. Drain excess solution from plant.

TO KEEP plants clean. Cut spent blooms and dead leaves.

TO REPOT your favorite plants in new potting media. This helps them to develop a healthier growth.

TO ALWAYS provide good drainage and never allow the soil to become soggy.

TO FERTILIZE only during the warm months, once a month, preferring a fertilizer high in acid. Use ½ the recommended strength on the label.

CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

Joseph A. Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PREPARE plants for spring growth by checking soil and pot condition—transplant if needed. Soil mix should be light and water should flow through freely.

TO FERTILIZE your plants regularly.

TO START acclimating the protected plants to outdoor conditions once again, after danger of frost is gone.

TO PROTECT sensitive plants from the rain and sun; bright sun can burn indoor plants.

TO KEEP newly purchased plants separated from your collection until they show signs of good growth without any pests or disease; treat any pest promptly; watch for snails, also. A wet winter might bring you

rodents; mice and rabbits are cute, but no cacti are safe from their nibbles. Protect your plants.

CALIFORNIA NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ENJOY the early blooms in your yard and in the back country. There will be *Ceanothus* in bloom all over the county. It might be a little early for the desert wildflowers, but it is good to call and check as bloom time varies from year to year.

TO PUT out snail bait in the moist areas where you see their trails. Place the bait where pets and children can't get into it.

TO NOTICE poorly drained areas in your garden and plant water loving natives there. Yellow and red monkey flowers, (*Mimulus guttatus* and *M. cardinalis*) and yerba mansa (*Anemopsis californica*) are examples of water loving native perennials.

TO PLAN for your fall planting. Notice areas that need more plants or different plants. Also note areas where plants seem to die. Check the drainage. If necessary, plant on mounds.

CAMELLIAS

Jay Vermilya

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP picking up spent blooms and petals to prevent petal blight.

TO SHAPE your plants to your taste: cut back tips to encourage bushiness; or, alternatively, remove branches/branchlets for a more open plant (permitting air circulation and creating more room for next year's buds to open fully).

TO CONTINUE to feed iron and 0-10-10/2-10-10 fertilizer for enhanced blooms.

TO LOOK for aphids and loopers on new tender foliage. Hose aphids off with water. Use malathion or Orthene for loopers.

TO START feeding with cottonseed meal (about 1 tablespoon per 1-gallon potted plant or up to 2 cups per large plant in ground) after plant has finished blooming and every 4 to 6 weeks until mid-August.

TO STOP any transplanting now that the camellias are in their growth cycle. New plants can still be put in the ground through the end of May but may need special attention particularly on hot days.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLACE tubers in starting medium such as

vermiculite or sand. Keep in a warm place to sprout; beware of too much moisture.

TO PREPARE the planting area by adding humus and fertilizer.

TO PLANT sprouted tubers, sprout side up, six inches below ground surface, two inches from stake, and cover with two inches of soil. With little care they are easy to grow and dwarf and bedding types add much beauty to your garden.

TO MOISTEN, but do not keep wet.

TO PROTECT new growth from snails.

TO BE SURE to drive stake into ground before planting tubers.

EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)

George French

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED epiphyllums with a low nitrogen fertilizer.

TO CHECK trellis to be sure plants are well secured.

TO GIVE plants filtered sunlight to encourage development of buds.

TO BAIT for snails. Granules have proven effective when placed at the base of the plant. They leave little or no residue.

TO CHECK for drainage in April. Do not move plants at this time, but continue to feed for bloom; use Hi-Bloom or bloom-builder type to promote healthy buds and bloom.

TO TAKE cuttings.

TO REMOVE buds from a new plant; that energy needs to go to the root system.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FERTILIZE with high nitrogen liquid or pellets.

TO REMOVE dead fronds.

TO CATCH rain water for plants in covered areas.

TO DIVIDE, repot, or add leaf mold to those plants needing it.

TO SPRAY for aphids and scale.

TO PLANT spores.

TO USE vitamin B₁ after dividing; use per instructions on label.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension
NOW IS THE TIME

TO IRRIGATE when new growth begins, if the soil is not moist, to a depth of 3 feet.

TO APPLY fertilizer high in nitrogen. Most mature fruit trees require the equivalent of one pound of

actual nitrogen annually. Divide the amount of fertilizer required into three equal lots and apply them six weeks apart, starting in the spring after new growth begins.

TO BEGIN thinning fruit of apples, pears, and stone fruit when they are about ½" in size. Space fruit 4 to 6 inches apart or leave one fruit per spur. Thin early maturing varieties earlier and heavier than late maturing varieties.

TO CHECK trees for pests. Wash foliage periodically with a forceful spray of water to dislodge aphids, spider mites, and whiteflies. If a pesticide is needed, use a chemical that has short residual activity, such as insecticidal soap or pyrethrin to protect beneficial insects.

TO KEEP ants off trees by wrapping a band of heavy paper around the trunk and applying a barrier of Tanglefoot on it, or by scattering diazinon granules on the soil around the trunk.

TO SPRAY apples after bloom to control codling moth (wormy fruit). Apply diazinon after petals have fallen and twice more at two-week intervals.

TO APPLY sulfur dust to control powdery mildew on grapes when new shoots are 6, 12, 18, and 24 inches long. Then, every two weeks or as needed until harvest.

FUCHSIAS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRUNE plants not done earlier.

TO PINCH new growth on plants pruned earlier. As the third set of leaves forms on new growth, pinch out the terminal set. This will result in a bushier plant.

TO FERTILIZE with any good balanced fertilizer.

TO WATCH for insects and treat accordingly.

TO WATER thoroughly the day before spraying.

TO CONTINUE taking cuttings from prunings.

TO CLEAN up fallen leaves, blooms and other trash.

GREEN THUMB ITEMS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CUTBACK to the basal foliage some herbaceous perennial plants: mums, columbine, coreopsis, some true geraniums, ornamental grasses, evening primrose, many salvias, and Shasta daisies.

TO PRUNE garden poinsettias in March and again in early July. Share your cuttings by giving 3 foot pieces to friends and neighbors.

TO PLANT high-moisture plants where fire-retardant plants are needed. Some desirable plants are sea fig, strawberry tree, carob tree, pineapple quava, oleander, dwarf coyote bush, and pomegranate.

HERBS

John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME.

TO DIG and amend the soil in all open areas of your herbal beds and borders.

TO FEED all your perennial herbs a little compost.

TO VISIT herb nurseries for starters and seeds. Try growing some annuals from seeds—anise, basil, cilantro, dill, (abcd ...)

TO PRUNE back overgrown lavender, rosemary, thyme, lemon verbena, chaste tree,

TO PROTECT young plants from snails. Use organic practices, especially in an herb garden. Experiment with hand picking, beer traps, bran, copper barriers, and/or invite some possums for a midnight picnic.

TO HARVEST from our native herbs — sagebrush, white sage, black sage, Cleveland sage, yerba mansa, yerba santa, elderberry,

TO MAKE fresh herbal bouquets with mint, thyme, rosemary, sage,.... Fresh or dried they make great gifts for your gourmet friends.

IRIS

San Diego/Imperial County Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO START feeding low nitrogen, all-purpose, and liquid fish fertilizers.

TO WATER regularly if no rain.

TO CLEAN beds and keep weeds under control.

TO WATCH for pests—systemic sprays applied as a drench will usually free iris of aphids and thrips.

TO GIVE Japanese and Louisiana irises an application of an acid food—a camellia-type fertilizer is convenient to use.

ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REPOT *Cattleya* plants that have overgrown their pots. When new green growth starts and new root tips are about 2 inches long, you can plant the division, which should have two or three back bulbs to nourish it. This applies to species *Cattleyas* and *Laelias* and some intergeneric hybrids.

TO MOVE *Cymbidium* plants to a shady area to keep blooms from fading. Do not rotate—spike will follow the light direction. Continue to feed low nitrogen fertilizer and protect from possible hail or rain.

TO CONTINUE to feed *Phalaenopsis*, which should be in their blooming glory at this time. Feed an even fertilizer, 1/4-strength every watering. On the 5th watering, use clear water to flush the salts from the

potting media. Try not to rotate plants as you work with them.

TO PAY ATTENTION to air movement, good water, and careful feeding of *Oncidium*, *Odontoglossum*, and *Brassia*. They are not as forgiving as other genera—they may grow and not flower. Researching where and how they grow will reward you with some of nature's most unusual and brilliant flowers.

TO PROVIDE fairly high heat, humidity, and air movement to *Vandas* and *Ascocendas*. They are heavy feeders and require an even fertilizer. When in active growth, the root tips will be green and growing. Keep the roots damp, but not soggy, with fertilized water. Most of these plants are raised in a fairly open potting mix and have a number of aerial roots.

TO WATCH for slugs, snails, red spiders, mealybugs, and aphids, and treat as needed.

TO REMEMBER this month the show season starts almost everywhere. Going to the shows will give you an opportunity to see new plants, to attend free culture classes, and purchase new plants. Ask questions. Shows are where the knowledgeable congregate.

PELARGONIUMS

Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Provide the best possible drainage.

TO WATCH FOR *Botrytis* (gray mold) and treat it immediately.

TO CONTINUE FEEDING a balanced fertilizer containing micronutrients. Dissolve in water, using less than the recommended amount as often as needed to keep the plants growing well. As the temperature becomes warmer, long term pellets may be used.

TO CONTINUE pest and disease control, using all products according to the manufacturers' directions.

TO PRUNE ivies and zonals if they have not been pruned. Avoid cutting regals, scented, and related types because their flowers will be lost by pruning them at this time.

TO MAKE cuttings from the ivy and zonal prunings if desired.

TO REMOVE faded flowers and old, discolored leaves.

TO ROTATE pots on a regular basis to produce well-shaped plants.

ROSES

Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER deeply to encourage your bushes to produce strong stems and healthy foliage.

TO WATER roses the day before feeding or spraying and again after feeding.

TO VARY the products used to provide the essential nutrients and micro-nutrients for your roses. Roses require a balanced diet to produce the blooms for which we grow them. High nitrogen will produce unusually tall bushes, which in many cases appear out of place in our home landscape, and that has contributed to too many negative comments about unattractive bushes. Along with the need for organic materials, we now recognize that nitrogen alone will seldom produce the quality and quantity of bloom we strive to produce.

TO VISIT your roses often to observe and enjoy their growth and revel in the beautiful early foliage.

TO CHECK daily for signs of unwanted pests, early signs of nutrition deficiency, and/or early weeds and grasses.

TO CONTROL aphids by washing them off with a strong stream of water from the hose in the early morning.

TO CONTROL thrips damage to blooms by using Orthinox (available in an atomizer spray) on blooms just as they begin to drop their sepals. Thrips become very active when the local uncared for vegetation dries up because of lack of moisture. Thrips distort the blooms by sucking the moisture from the petals and the bloom fails to open properly.

TO RECORD your garden maintenance efforts. Time does fly when you're having fun!

TO PREPARE to adjust your schedule to weather conditions. Foggy cool days are certain to encourage mildew in the rose garden and an early heat wave means you must water, water, water. To a limited degree, washing off your bushes in the early morning will delay mites and even early mildew.

TO LEARN rose terminology. Particularly become acquainted with the difference between a sucker and a basal break! A sucker is **unwanted** and a basal break is a beginning to a new cane, which is what we are trying to produce so we can cut off the old worn out canes at next year's pruning!

TO ENJOY your roses during these months, weather permitting, the months of glory for roses and rosarians.

TO ATTEND garden shows and appreciate all the wonderful plant materials that abound in Southern California.

TO PLAN for replacement varieties of roses during

the growing season by observing carefully roses in gardens in your area. Usually roses that do well in the coastal areas will not have enough petals to produce good roses in the inland areas. Avoid roses that are susceptible to mildew.

VEGETABLES

**Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension
NOW IS THE TIME**

TO PREPARE soil for planting by incorporating compost and a complete fertilizer high in phosphorus. Apply chemical fertilizers just before planting. If manures are used, apply them at least two weeks before planting and irrigate to leach salts from the surface soil. Apply twenty pounds of poultry manure or fifty pounds of steer manure per hundred square feet.

TO MAKE a last planting of cool season vegetables such as leaf lettuce, beets, and kohlrabi that will mature before hot summer weather arrives.

TO SET OUT tomato transplants after danger of frost has past. Delay planting beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, melons, peppers, and squash until the soil is warm. Use hot caps or floating row covers to promote faster growth.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

**from UC Cooperative Extension Publications
NOW IS ONE OF THE BEST TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS**

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: cabbage and eggplant.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beans (lima, pole, snap), beets, carrots, chard, corn, cucumbers, endive, gourds, kale, lettuce (leaf), melons (cantaloupe, casaba), okra, onions (green), parsley, parsnips, peas (bush), peppers, radishes, spinach (in March), squash (summer and winter), tomatoes, turnips, and watermelon — ageratum, amaranthus, balsam, canterbury bells, carnations, celosia, coleus, cosmos, daisies (African), dusty miller, four o'clocks, impatiens, lobelia, marigold, morning glory, nasturtium, petunia, phlox, portulaca, salvia, scabiosa, statice, tithonia, verbenas, vinca, zinnias.

HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND FOUND TOTAL HAPPINESS WITH MY COMPOST PILE

BY CONNIE BECK CRUSHA

COMPOST IS THE END product of decomposition of organic matter—in other words, it is what remains when something that was once alive rots.

Back before the ancient Egyptians, farmers were composting. Native Americans composted before the coming of the Europeans. It seems that everyone has always known that compost is good for the soil.

Compost happens because microorganisms break down organic matter creating humus. This humus causes the mineral particles in soil to clump together, improving soil structure, holding moisture in the soil, and promoting soil health.

This is what compost does for your soil:

Improves soil structure

Acts like pieces of sponge in the soil to hold moisture

Improves aeration so that plant roots can get the air they need

Holds the nutrients in the soil instead of letting them leach with the groundwater

Increases the number of microorganisms in the soil

Neutralizes acid soil and acidifies alkaline soil

Digests the spores of harmful fungi

Contains trace elements that are difficult to obtain otherwise

Destroys pathogens in the soil making plants disease-free

Helps plants resist stress and insect attacks

HOW TO MAKE COMPOST

Combine an equal WEIGHT of greens and browns. Greens are wet materials that are a source of nitrogen. Grass clippings, garbage, manures are all green materials. Browns are the dry twiggy materials that are a source of carbon. Browns include straw, dead leaves, dead weeds, corn cobs, etc. Simply balancing your compost pile with equal weights of greens and browns will give you the 30 carbon to 1 nitrogen ratio that is the ideal.

The more variety in your compost, the better your compost!

In addition to greens and browns, your compost pile needs moisture and air. Your compost pile should always be as damp as a wrung out sponge. Eastern books tell you to cover your pile. In California we are grateful for every

drop of water that falls on our piles, so we would NOT want to cover it. Keeping air in your pile means it is well aerated and will not begin to stink. Don't let anyone step on your pile or compress it. Air is necessary to promote aerobic decomposition.

Ideally your pile needs to be 3' x 3' x 3' but that is just an ideal. You can compost in any container bigger than a five gallon bucket.

The key to faster compost is smaller particles. The more air the pieces are exposed to, the faster the rot (oxidation) takes place. It is not necessary to own a shredder to make compost, though that certainly speeds up the process. If you have huge piles of leaves you can run a lawn mower over them to shred them to speed things up.

WHAT DOES NOT GO IN A COMPOST PILE

- Meat and meat products like grease and bones and gravy
- Any pet or human manure
- Coal or charcoal ashes
- Diseased plants
- Glossy paper with colors, from magazines
- Bermuda grass
- Weeds with mature seeds
- Sunflower seed hulls
- Plywood dust and debris
- Sawdust from pressure treated wood
- Seeds and fronds from palm trees
- Plant debris from plants that were killed with herbicides
- Plastic or styrofoam

WHAT DOES GO IN A COMPOST PILE

- Coffee grounds
- Corn cobs and stalks
- Pea and bean stalks
- Eggshells
- Fish
- Fruit wastes
- Grass clippings (spread these in layers no more than 3" deep)
- Hair
- Hay
- Leaves
- Manure
- Paper
- Nut shells
- Pine needles (they will break down slowly; they might be better used as a mulch)
- Sawdust
- Wood chips

- Tree prunings
- Seaweed (in moderation!)
- Stable bedding
- Vegetable waste
- Green weeds
- Fireplace ashes (in moderation!)

HOW TO USE COMPOST

Spread a thin layer of it on the soil around your plants as a mulch in a bed.

Use it as a fertilizer and spread it on your plants.

Make it into compost tea by soaking a bag of it in water for several days, then diluting it and pouring it around your plants.

Mix it half and half with perlite and use it as a potting soil.

HOW MUCH COMPOST TO USE

As much as you have. You can grow plants in straight compost so don't worry about using too much!

ACTIVE VERSUS PASSIVE

Active simply means you turn the pile occasionally.

Passive means you watch TV or read a book and let the pile take care of itself. Both methods yield compost eventually.

HOW TO MAKE COMPOST

Find a level site out of the way and out of sight.

Think about putting it where you can get a wheelbarrow to it easily to bring materials to the pile and to haul compost away to use.

Dig a pit, or build a circle of wire, or make a lot of fancy bins, or buy an expensive compost maker bin, or use old trash barrels or steel drums in which you have punched holes in the bottom and the sides. It doesn't make any difference. You also can just pile it on the ground.

Assemble the browns and greens. Cut them up as small as you can one way or another. Put a layer of twiggy dry stuff on the bottom for good aeration.

Now start making layers of greens and browns.

The green layers will be quite thin in comparison to the brown layers of dry materials.

Make your layers slightly concave in the center so that the pile does not look like a mound but like a cake with a sunken top.

Sprinkle the dry layers with plenty of water as you build the pile. Spread some dirt or old compost on the green layers.

Be sure to end with a layer of old compost or soil or dry materials. You do not want to attract flies, rats or possums with garbage they can smell and reach.

If you are of a scientific mind you can take the pile's temperature occasionally and turn it whenever it reaches 140 degrees. This is not necessary but it gives you some good exercise.

PROBLEMS IN THE COMPOST PILE

Nothing is happening. It's too dry or the materials are not chopped small enough. A pile of brush is not a compost pile. Try again.

Stinks. It's way too wet and it's gone anaerobic. Turn it and add dry materials to it.

Fire. It was almost 100% green materials and you didn't pay attention to it so it got so hot inside that it started smoldering. This is not likely with a home compost pile, to say the least. But if you had 12 yards of fresh green shredded tree prunings delivered it could happen. Pull the pile down to no more than 18" in height and water it down.

Too cold. Nothing is happening. Add greens. Or the pile may be way too small and out in the open.

Flies. You didn't cover the food scraps. Turn it again and put browns or soil on top. Put the outside on the inside.

Animals in your pile. Same thing. Cover those food scraps.

CREATIVE COMPOSTING

Just dig small trenches and bury what you would otherwise compost. You can do it somewhat like you would double dig by digging a small trench, burying tonight's food waste in it and covering it with the soil you take out of tomorrow night's trench. This is a wonderful way to enrich the soil around a fruit tree. Just dig a hole at the edge of the drip line. By the time you've made it around the tree with your buried compost the tree will have grown and your second circle will be at the edge of the new expanded drip line. I saw peaches as large as cantaloupes that were grown using this method.

Whenever you want a new garden bed, just build your compost pile there. After a year or so, rake it down into the size and shape you want and put some rocks around it for a border. This is the easiest garden bed you will ever create, and probably the most successful.

Blend and pour. You will want an extra blender for this! Take your daily food scraps and put them through the blender. Pour this directly around your plants. Cover with a thin layer of soil or mulch.

Dry leaves and green weeds can be used as mulch directly on the soil and will eventually be decomposed into the soil by microbial action without your help.

Anaerobic composting can be achieved by following these instructions exactly! Put a mixture of green weeds, dry leaves, and soil into a black trash bag. Shoot in some water with a hose to moisten it very well. Tie the bag shut tightly. Leave it in the sun for about four months in the winter, at least two months in the summer. After it has shrunk down in mass and become somewhat lighter you can open it. It should be beautiful compost. If you opened it too soon it will stink more than you can believe.

If you have no room for a compost pile, you can make a worm farm in a plastic tub. That is something to discuss in another article.

SOME FINAL WORDS

A few tricks I've learned in thirty-some years of composting are the following:

The richest soil you will have in your garden will be under the compost pile. Treasure it.

A Chinese trick for growing awesome tomatoes is to plant them at the edge of a compost pile. If your pile is rich and moist you won't ever have to water your tomatoes while they grow.

Hog wire in a 6' circle makes a great compost bin but it's not very attractive on its own. It disappears and looks wonderful if you grow sweet peas or another vine on the wire.

IF YOU HAVE TO BUY COMPOST OR FIND IT SOMEWHERE ELSE

There is a good product on the market called Farmer's Compost. I have bought good compost from Alpine Rock and Block on Las Coches and Highway 8 in Lakeside. You also can get compost and mulch free from the city landfills. Just take a good look at what you are getting.

Very well composted and aged horse and cow manure is good provided it is a soft brown color and very light in weight. Any fresh manures need to be composted, aged, and leached of salts before use. □

Connie Beck is an organic gardening instructor and speaker. She is a volunteer for National Wildlife Federation's Habitat Steward program. You are invited to see this article and others you may find of interest at the local NWF website:

www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/wildlife

THE CHINESE HISTORIC MUSEUM AND GARDEN

BY VIRGINIA MAPLES INNIS

THE SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORIC Museum and Garden recently became an affiliate of San Diego Floral Association. This organization is in the downtown San Diego Gaslamp area. The location is at 404 Third Avenue, which is on the corner of Third Ave. and "J" Street. It is an area that once was known as "Chinatown."

HISTORIC OLD CHINATOWN: San Diego started in what now is known as Old Town. The Chinese were the first Asians attracted to the new town. They settled along the bay and around Third Avenue and Island and this area, small as it was, got the name "Chinatown." Close by came settlements of Filipinos and Japanese. In 1987, the San Diego City Council recognized these early inhabitants by creating THE ASIAN PACIFIC DISTRICT. There are many activities in the area during a year sponsored by this group.

STINGAREE AND OTHER HISTORY: Huge ships came into the bay from all over the world. The area where the Chinese lived became surrounded by a red light district called "stingaree." It became known for violence and crime. Yet, within the area the Chinese continued with life; they worked hard and raised families. Service type work characterized the labor of most: laundrymen, cooks, gardeners, bakers, herbalists, and produce vendors. There were also those who were in business. The Woo Chee Chong Co. had stores in San Diego almost through the twentieth century.

HISTORIC BUILDING: The Chinese Mission was said to be a positive help in the early community. It was a place something like the YMCA and YWCA where people could go and learn English. When the City of San Diego redeveloped Horton Plaza the original Mission Building was moved. Ralphs Market on First Avenue now stands where the old Mission Building stood. The Mission Building became the home of the Chinese Historical Museum. This building was renovated by Architect Joseph Wong as the first building restored in the Asian Pacific District. It was dedicated January 13, 1996.

Inside the Museum entry, one side is a library and the other side a small gift shop. The museum is full of exhibits. There are photographs of the early times. There are photographs of people and of buildings. The architecture of the stores looked somewhat like an American frontier town. There are stories about the gambling and opium dens that are as wild as America's "Wild West." The Museum has a glass covered exhibit

that is a miniature of the Fishing Village that had fishing and fish drying workplaces on Ballast Point on the bay in Point Loma. There are photographs of a later fishing fleet that moored in the bay off Third Street in junk type boats that were said to have been made in San Diego.

The Woo Chee Chong Company safe is stored in the kitchen. Legend has it that the early Chinese did not trust banks. The practice was for many people to share one safe. There were compartments for each family to store money and valuables. It is thought that this safe served such a purpose!

DR. CHUANG, MUSEUM DIRECTOR: The museum has an executive director, Dr. Alexander Chuang, Ph.D. He was born in Nanking, China and went to Taiwan before coming to the USA in 1962. Dr. Chuang designs gardens and has made three for his home, one of which is an oriental garden. With the help of Joseph Yamada, he designed the garden at the Chinese Historical Museum.

It is interesting that around 1975 about 130,000 Indo-Chinese came to the USA. About 35,000 of these people settled in San Diego, many more in Southern California.

THE MUSEUM GARDEN: Entry to the gardens is from a gate to the side of the building on Third Avenue. A stream flows through the narrow space to end in a koi pond in back of the building. Attractive rocks line the stream and a stone path follows along the water. The side garden is a very good example of how to landscape a narrow space and use water. A tall handsome gate opens from the back out to "J" Street. Outside, plantings soften the area between the sidewalk and building. Behind the building is a hard surface patio space that has some interesting sculptures.

THE STATUE OF CONFUCIUS: There is a huge statue of the teacher-philosopher Confucius. It was given to the Museum by the Ministry of Education of Taiwan. That the Chinese placed value on education is confirmed by the fact that Confucius' birthday, September 30, is Teachers' Day in China.

TERRA COTTA REPLICAS: There are two terra cotta figures that are replicas of treasures discovered in China in 1974. In Xian, China, a terra cotta army was unearthed, many figures were symbolically guarding the mausoleum of China's first feudal Emperor, Qin Shi Hung (259-210 B.C.) He had many accomplishments including finishing the building of the Great Wall of China.

ACTIVITIES: The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday hours are 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. The Museum is closed Mondays. Entry is free, donations are accepted. A fee of \$25.00 is charged for a guided tour for up to 30 people. Information can be obtained www.sdchm.org.

Tours of the Asian Pacific District run on the second Saturday of the month at 11:00 a.m. Guided tours are offered from the Museum area for the charge of a small fee. A brochure is available at the Museum for self tours.

Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., there is an Asian Farmers Market at Third Avenue and Island.

Chinese Historic Museum and Garden

404 Third Avenue

San Diego, CA 92101

Contact them about membership at 619-338-9888 or www.sdchm.org. □

Virginia Innis is a member of the Flower Arrangers Guild and is a National Council of State Garden Clubs design instructor emeritus.



KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is available at the San Diego Floral Association in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. This book contains a plant index, and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted. Often known as "The Mother of Balboa Park," Kate Sessions for over fifty years devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how in this book.

ROLAND HOYT BOOK REPRINT

Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions by Roland Stewart Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. This book has been available only at rare book stores until now (going rate \$65). Bill and Mike have donated the new books to San Diego Floral Association. Ten dollars of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt. The books are available at office above.

Half the book is a written description and sketch of each plant. In recent years, many scientific names have been changed, but there is an updated nomenclature at the end of the book.

The Complete Writings of Kate Sessions 1909-1939

- ☐ \$21.00 non-members (book, tax, mailing)
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ATTRACTING BARN OWLS

BY CAROL KILLEBREW

GOPHERS AND RATS BEWARE!

Barn owls are shy and live by night, but they don't seem to mind living around human activity. So there is a good chance you can encourage some barn owls to nest in your yard.

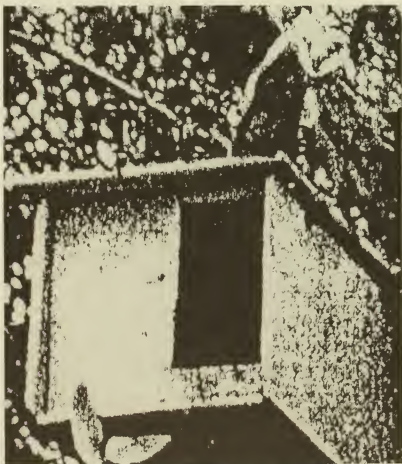
An adult barn owl will typically eat two to three rodents a night. And a family of owls can increase that to about ten. That translates to more than 2,000 rodents per year!

Owls swallow their prey whole, in one piece. Later, they regurgitate the leftovers in a pellet of fur, bones, and teeth. These pellets are found under their nests and where they roost; and kids like to dissect them for science projects.

Barn owls are raptors and kill their prey with strong grasping talons. From hundreds of feet away, barn owls can locate and catch their prey in total darkness due to their sharp eyes and even sharper ears. They have a large 43-inch wingspan, and fly slowly and silently while hunting. The barn owl makes a loud raspy scree-eech sound, while the great horned owl makes the more familiar "who hoo-ing" sound. Even though the barn owl is the size of a crow, it only weighs a pound.

HERE COME THE OWLETS

Like many birds, barn owls mate for life, and often the same pair will use the same nest box for several years in a row.



In San Diego, barn owls often lay eggs in January. Owlets will hatch thirty days later and leave the nest in early May. A second clutch in summer is not uncommon.

The female sits on the eggs for a month while the male feeds her. Right after hatching, the mother tears up pieces of food with her beak to feed the chicks. Once the owlets are able to swallow their food whole, then both parents bring rodent after rodent to them all night long for three to four months. At about ten weeks, the fledglings start flight school and practice for about three months before leaving the box. Barn owls are a riot to watch and lights don't seem to bother them much. A pair of binoculars will let you in on the action, both day and night.

BUILD A BARN OWL BOX

Barn owls do like to live in barns, as well as in hollow trees and silos. The best way to attract barn owls to your yard is to build a plywood box like the one in the picture (look carefully and you will see the barn owl on top of the box).

The barn owl nest box dimensions are 16 x 32-inch roof; 14 x 14 x 30-inch box; 12 x 6-inch doorway; and drainage holes in the bottom. Use 1/2" or 5/8" plywood, screwed, glued, and painted for weatherproofing. Install about 20 feet up a tree or pole, preferably with the opening facing northeast or southeast.

Barn owls require no nesting material in the box; they just lay their eggs on the floor.

It may take up to two years for barn owls to move in, but once they've discovered the box, it will often be used year after year. □

Carol Killebrew is a Habitat Stewards Host with NWF. (killebrew@ix.netcom.com)

EDAMAME

BY KATHY WILKINSON BARASH

THIS ANCIENT ASIAN VEGETABLE is rapidly growing in popularity in America. In Japan, the pods are popped open and eaten out of hand as we would eat peanuts out of the shell—the perfect accompaniment to a frosty glass of beer. Edamame translates as “beans on branches,” for its growing habit—producing bunches of beans on well-branched shrubby plants. Unlike regular soybeans, that dry on the plant, edamame pods are picked green—before they ripen. Each green pod contains two or three delicious seeds (beans) with a sweet nutty flavor that appeals to children and adults.

History

Edamame (*Glycine max*) is a specialty soybean; records indicate its use in China (known there as *mao dou*) more than 2200 years ago. From China, it was introduced into Japan, where it was consumed for centuries before it was documented in the A.D. 927 *Engishiki*. This guide about trade in agricultural commodities depicts the fresh soybean pods as offerings in buddhist temples. A seasonal crop, its peak harvest coincided with the full moons of September and October. Originally grown in the berms between rice paddies, edamame is now field-cultivated.

David Fairchild, noted horticulturist and plant explorer with the department of Agriculture, introduced edamame to the U.S. in 1902 after delighting in its flavor and texture while traveling in Japan. He grew it and served it to prominent guests in Washington D.C. Although edamame did not catch on as a snack food as quickly as he had hoped, research has been going on for seventy-five years, flourishing in the 1930s and 1940s due to a protein shortage. Interest spiked again in the 1970s concurrent with the growing interest in organic agriculture. The focus of the Rodale Research Center was on edamame quality and adaptability, while Cornell University conducted basic agronomic research.

Edamame Common Names

In the plant world, its common names abound; the most common is vegetable soybean. Other appellations include edible soybean, fresh green soybean, garden soybean, green soybean, green-mature soybean, green vegetable soybean, immature soybean, large-seeded soybean, vegetable-type soybean, and beer bean. In culinary circles, nomenclature is much simpler: just call it edamame.

Tasty and Good for You Too

Edamame is a nutritional powerhouse. Like dried soybeans, it is high in phytoestrogens, a natural plant

estrogen. A 100-gram serving (½ ounce or about thirty-five pods) of the beans only (not the pods) has 125 hardworking calories packed with twelve grams of protein, thirteen grams of carbohydrate, and only 3.5 grams of fat. It is rich in calcium and phosphorus and is a good source of vitamin A.



Sow It and It Will Grow

Edamame is divided into two classifications: day length sensitive and insensitive. The best way to determine the adaptability of a variety is to grow it. Select the variety based on days to maturity and the flavor. Early varieties will mature in about sixty-five days.

Edamame is easy to grow, similar to growing bush beans. Like other legumes, edamame seeds benefit from an inoculant, which enables the roots to fix nitrogen from the air, making this valuable nutrient available to the plant. Be sure that the inoculant is specific to soybeans. Some seeds are already coated with inoculant—check with the seed company to be sure.

Grow edamame in full sun. Plants are adaptable to most soil types. In spring, once the soil has warmed to 65 degrees, sow the seeds 3 inches apart and one inch deep, spacing rows about 24 inches apart. The seeds easily rot if overwatered. Since all the pods on a plant are ready to pick at once, make successive sowings—every week or two—to ensure fresh edamame all summer long. When the plants reach a height of 4 to 6 inches high, add a 3-inch layer of organic mulch (hay, leaf mold, salt hay, grass clippings) around each plant. Keep the mulch at least 1 inch from the stem. Water thoroughly during dry periods. Foliar feed or fertilize

when the plants begin flowering. In general, the plants grow about 2 feet tall—just the right size for children to help with the harvest.

Pick It Right

Pod color, which is affected by the amount of sun that reaches the pods, is the best way to judge edamame. The darker the color of the pods, the better the flavor of the seeds. The beans are more flavorful if harvested in the evening, rather than in the morning. For peak flavor and nutritive value, harvest edamame when the pod is 80% to 90% filled out. Studies have shown that by the time the pod has matured, flavor and nutrients have started to decline. Refrigerate, freeze, cook, or blanch the pods as soon as possible after picking to maintain flavor and nutrients.

Edamame is best—from both a flavor and nutrition standpoint—if eaten soon after picking. Edamame is a delicious, healthy snack. Because it is something you can eat with your fingers and its flavor has a light sweetness blended with a nutty taste, edamame appeals to children and adults alike. Boil the freshly picked pods for about 10 minutes in salted water. Drain the pods and serve them heaped in an attractive bowl. They are equally delectable as finger food whether served slightly warm from cooking, at room temperature, or lightly chilled. Hold the pod and gently push the beans out of the pod, pop them into your mouth, and enjoy their sweet, nutty flavor.

If the harvest is greater than the immediate need, blanch and freeze the beans. Put them in boiling salted water for one minute. Pressed for time? Plunge entire stems in the pot. Drain the pods and immediately immerse them in ice water to stop the cooking process. Once chilled, drain on a paper towel and freeze serving-size portions in heavy-duty, zippered plastic bags. When anyone has a yen for edamame, plunge the entire bag in a large pot of boiling water for about fifteen minutes (if frozen), four to six minutes if defrosted. Some gardening cooks prefer to freeze the pods directly after picking, without blanching. However, blanching inhibits the enzyme action that would otherwise overripen the beans.

In addition to being a great snack, shelled edamame beans are delicious served solo as a vegetable, mixed in with other vegetables, stir fried, added to soups, and combined with other beans in chili. In Japan, ground beans are blended with miso to make a thick broth called *gojiru*.

[A local Master Gardener advises that edamame grows in the San Diego area, should be planted in April. It takes a lot of water. Editor]

Kathy Wilkinson Barash wrote this article for the National Garden Bureau (www.ngb.org).

The following chart lists edamame varieties, a brief description, the source of seed for home gardeners and website. You may link directly to seed companies marked with an * from the Bureau website www.ngb.org and clicking on "Member Directory."

'Besweet 2020'	87 days. Ideal fresh or dry, bushy 30 inch tall plant	Vermont Bean Seed Co.	www.vermontbean.com
'Beer Friend'	75-85 days. Snack of choice in Japan; prolific, 30-36 inches tall	J. W. Jung Seed Co. * Territorial Seed Co. * Nichols Garden Nursery	www.jungseed.com www.territorialseed.com www.nicholsgardennursery.com
'Butterbaby' (Bush Shiratori)	75 days. Tender texture, buttery flavor	* W. Atlee Burpee & Co.	www.burpee.com
'Butterbeans'	90 days. Sweet, buttery, high yielding, 24-30 inches tall	* Johnny's Selected Seeds	www.johnnyseeds.com
'Early Hakucho'	65-75 days. Prolific, heat tolerant, 12-14 inches tall	* George W. Park Seed * Willhite Seed Inc.	www.parkseed.com www.willhiteseed.com
'Envy'	75 days. 24 inches tall	* Johnny's Selected Seeds	www.johnnyseeds.com
'Green Pearls'	65 days. Tasty, 12-14 inches tall	* W. Atlee Burpee & Co.	www.burpee.com
'Misono Green'	85 days. 24 inches tall	* Territorial Seed Co.	www.territorialseed.com
'Shironomai'	70 days. Sweet, buttery, high yielding, 12-24 inches tall	* Johnny's Selected Seeds	www.johnnyseeds.com
'Tohya'	80 days. Most popular variety in Japan	* Botanical Interests, Inc.	www.gardenrails.com www.gardenguides.com
Several types	Seed packets available in stores.	* Lake Valley Seed Inc.	customerservice@lakevalleyseed.com



THE BEST ROSE GUIDE: A Comprehensive Selection **Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix**

Buffalo, Firefly Books Ltd., 2004, 288 pages, 1,300 color photos, 8½" x 11", hardcover, \$45.00

Although this guide covers 850 types of roses chosen by the authors, it is not too heavy to be a handy reference whether your interest is selecting new roses or caring for those you now have. Unlike many rose books where all roses are listed A to Z, this one is divided into twenty-three divisions based on the roses' history and parentage. These include Wild, Gallica, Damasks, Alba, Centrifolia, Moss, Portland, China, Tea, Noisette, Bourbon, Hybrid (Perpetuals, Tea and Musk), Climbing, Ramblers, Groundcover, Rugosa, Shrub, Polyantha, Floribundas, (English, and Miniature.) The book begins with a Visual Key that pictures each type of rose and gives a brief description, for example, climbing roses vs. ramblers. So if you are interested in a particular type of rose it is much easier to go to that section and compare those pictures and garden notes, rather than scan an A to Z compilation.

Roses selected for inclusion are based on color, health, scent, and vigor. Each listing gives scientific and common name, country of origin, history, and a detailed description. The garden notes give information on cultivation and care, including roses especially recommended for the warm, dry climate in Southern California.

The photos are outstanding. Roger Phillips is a master at photographing specimens so the details may be recognized in identifying specimens. Not only the individual rose closeups, but also the photos showing roses with companion plants are interesting. There are at least two photos showing a China rose and a tea rose intertwined with ceanothus. Photos are included from all over the world, several from California including my favorite from the Huntington Garden. The caption says they have a "particularly large and interesting collection of roses of all types, and it would be hard to beat the abundance of the rose beds here."

The index lists current names in bold and alternative, old or incorrect names in lighter text. If you are familiar with their book *Roses* issued in 1988 and enjoyed it, this one is even better especially in the amount of information included.

Reviewed by R. Cox

ORNAMENTAL FOLIAGE PLANTS

Denise Greig

Buffalo, Firefly Books Ltd., 2004, 400 pages, 1,000 color photos, 8¼" x 11¼", hardcover, \$45

The advantages of using foliage for garden color are enthusiastically and effectively presented in this handsome volume. After a short survey of various factors, such as climate, exposure, soil, and other details, the author introduces a table of identifying icons and letters to guide the reader through the extensive alphabetical listing of foliage plants that comprises the second part of the book.

The first part is organized by foliage characteristics and plant types. From Architectural and Aromatic plants, through Grey Blue and Variegated colors and other foliage aspects, the author provides options for ground covers and grasses, climbers and hedges, containers, and houseplants that will bring a variety of shapes, colors, and textures to a garden. Her discussions of the various plant foliage types include bright photos, which illustrate the effects as well as the details of their subjects. In addition to the narrative descriptions, each section concludes with a listing of plants, for further investigation in the A to Z Directory of Plants that follows.

The directory items include plant families, common names, origins, and detailed descriptions, including use and cultivation. The icons and initials indicating growing conditions and climate might take a bit of preparatory learning, but there is a lot of good information to be gained. It also should be noted that, though much of this book seems oriented toward the four season gardener, there is plenty of interest for those in our area.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

A NATURAL HISTORY OF FERNS

Robin C. Moran

Portland, Timber Press, 2004, 302 pages, 26 color photos, 145 b&w drawings, 6" x 9", hardcover, \$29.95

Once upon a time it was believed that holding a fern leaf could make a person invisible, because no one had ever seen a fern seed. It took several centuries for botanists to perceive fern dust, which eventually was determined to be just part of the plants' propagating process. This introduction to how ferns grow is just a

sample of Moran's imaginative and witty style in the thirty-three essays that make up this book. The curator of ferns at the New York Botanical Garden, Moran is more than just an expert in his chosen field. His enthusiasm has taken him through time and geographic space as he pursues all there is to see, know, and write about ferns. In this book he also includes lycophytes, a group of vascular plants that, like ferns, possess vascular tissue and reproduce by liberating spores.

A chapter on pre-historic ferns reveals the handsome diamond patterned bark that has become a staple of architectural design. Another, on "Robinson Crusoe's ferns," is focused on the Juan Fernandez Islands off the west coast of South Africa as an example of tropical islands that are the main native habitat for ferns. Much of the book is written in an easy conversational style, but it is also a very serious book, full of scientific information, diagrams, and line drawings. A seven-page glossary and ten pages of references can be found at the end.

Meanwhile, Moran is shamelessly into playing with words. "Genres of Genera" is the title of a chapter on how ferns are named. "Shady Behavior" discusses incandescent ferns. And he is not above calling his chapter on spore shooting "Sporadic Results." A section of color photos appears at the end of chapter twenty-nine. Included here is a version of the "Tartary Lamb," formed by a tree fern stem with four petioles twisted down for legs, and dried fiddleheads "artfully affixed" serving as ears and tail.

Here is an author who plainly delights in his subject and one needn't be a fern aficionado to share his enthusiasm.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

THE PLANT HUNTER'S GARDEN: The New Explorers and Their Discoveries

Bobby J. Ward

Portland, Timber Press, 2004, 270 pages, 250 color photos 7½" x 10½", hardcover, \$39.95

How many of us look beyond the nursery stocks or the pages of seed catalogs to think where all these plants might have come from? Here is the backstage story of the avid plant-people whose passion takes them all over the world to collect seeds and plants for the commercial nursery market. No scientific seekers of specimens for botanical collections are they, but intrepid, and patient hunters of new species and varieties to tempt the gardening public. All are connected to nurseries and/or seed catalogs that serve the horticultural industry.

The author presents thirty-two hunter/growers with beautiful color photos of their favorite plants. His

frontispiece glows with the brilliant red of the *Brunsvigia orientalis*, that looks more like a flowering pinwheel than a real plant. It is one of the specialties of Silverhill Gardens in Cape Town, South Africa. Owners Rod and Rachel Saunders roam the southern part of the continent to find new marketable plant species: one of their finds is the red *Bacopa*, African Sunset.

Among other geographically oriented plant finders are those who concentrate on species from the Himalayas, China, Japan, Chile, and Mexico. Seed specialists for Northwest and Southwest native plants are also included.

Many explorers focus on a particular species, such as camellias that can survive cold weather, a focus of Clifford Parks whose interest began at the Los Angeles Arboretum and Descanso Gardens, before moving east to North Carolina. Alpine rock gardens draw the attention of two men of European origin while bulbs for warm climates are nurtured by Thad Howard in Texas. In Oregon, self-described "plant geeks," Sean Hogan and Parker Sanderson like everything that grows but give special attention to plants that have been overlooked or neglected.

Curiously enough, the book ends with a discussion of invasive plants, with a variety of opinions on when, where, and how a plant becomes a weed. A lengthy bibliography and complete index enhance the interest that this handsome book holds for the gardening reader.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

PALM TREES: A Story in Photographs

David Leaser

Los Angeles, Westwood Pacific Publishing, 2005, 144 pages, 135 color photos, 9" x 12", hardcover, \$39.95

This book is dedicated to those who love palm trees as well as landscapers. The photos are wonderful featuring both palm trees in their natural habitat and in landscapes. There are twenty scenes where photos are spread over two pages that are especially stunning. The emphasis is not on identifying the particular palm tree but the effectiveness of their use in landscaping. The palms are presented geographically by major areas: Americas, Africa and Indian Ocean, Europe and Middle East, and Asia and Australia. The oddest palm is *Hyphaene coriacea* from Madagascar and southeast Africa pictured in Hawaii growing almost horizontally. Both botanical and common names are listed in the index for easy reference as are public gardens such as Huntington Botanical Gardens and Fullerton Arboretum.

An ideal gift book for those interested in palms or those who see the palm tree as a symbol for the tropics.

Reviewed by R. Cox



SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

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Pres: Carvill Veech 619-435-8079
★CROWN GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Loie Wilkens 619-435-0838
4th Thu - 9:30 am, Coronado Library
DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Sandi Lord 760-727-7614
E-mail: sandilord@earthlink.net
2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall
FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Jerri Patchett 760-723-8635
3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, FPUD Bldg on Mission Rd
Last Thu - 9:30 am, Fallbrook Presbyterian
Church on Stage Coach
FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB
Chrm: Mrs. Neil Powers 858-755-2689
2nd Mon - 10:30 am, Homes of Members
LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Jody Petersen 858-729-0711
3rd Tue - 1:30 pm, L.J. Lutheran Church
LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Pres: Yolanda Fleet 760-745-1219
4th Mon - 2:00 pm - Rancho Bernardo
Library (new), 2nd floor
LAS JARDINERAS
Pres: Julie Warren 619-298-7043
3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Homes of Members
MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB
Pres: Helen Odum 760-743-1921
3rd Sat - 12:45 pm, MiraCosta Community
College, Student Center Bldg (upstairs)
Meetings Sep through Jun ONLY
MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Sherri Schottaender 619-295-2702
4th Wed - 6:30 pm, Mission Hills United Church
of Christ at 4070 Jackdaw Street
★POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Dolly Hartman 619-276-0209
2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Masonic Center
1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd
Guests welcome
POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Gail Matson 858-486-8969
2nd Wed - 9:00 am, Lake Poway Pavilion
RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Iris Price 760-788-8035
2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Ramona Community
Center, 434 Aqua Lane
RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Donna Ferrier 858-756-1554
★SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Pres: Joyce McManus 619-449-3230
4th Thu - 9:30 am, Homes of Members

CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (CONTINUED)

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Jerry Thirloway 858-755-3284
4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA

Pres: Ann Zahner 858-454-8088
4th Thu - 10:00 am, Torrey Pines Christian Church, LJ

VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Rosella Pelzer 760-724-7656
1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Center

KEKBANA SCHOOLS:

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKBANA

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Haruko Crawford 619-660-2046

KEKBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119

Pres: Mrs. Peter Gaskin 619-758-9609

IKENOBU CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO

Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 858-278-5689

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKBANA

LA JOLLA CHAPTER

2nd Tues - 10:00 am, La Jolla Library

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKBANA

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Mrs. Walter Bourland 619-276-4667

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKBANA

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Director: Hiroko Szechinski 858-571-6137

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKBANA

Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey 619-429-6198

PLANT SOCIETIES:

AFRICAN VIOLET

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Pres: Barbara Conrad 858-759-9972
4th Mon - 10:00 am, Vista Library,
700 Eucalyptus Avenue

BEGONIA

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Pres: Doris Smith 619-222-1294
2nd Tue - 10:30 am, Homes of Members

MABEL CORWIN BRANCH

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Pres: Dean Turney 760-942-1919
2nd Sun - 1:30 pm, except May & Aug
Quail Gardens

MARGARET LEE BRANCH

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Pres: Michael Ludwig 619-262-7535
Last Sat - 10:30 am, Homes of Members

BONSAI

HON NON BO ASSOCIATION

Pres: Brenda Storey 858-689-0957
1st Sun. every other month (begin Feb.)
10:30 am, Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.

Information Telephone 619-699-8776
2nd Sun - 10:30 am, Casa del Prado

BROMELIAD

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF

BALBOA PARK

Pres: Joann Dossett 619-299-4115
2nd Tue - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Pres: Tom Knapik 619-462-1805
2nd Sat - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

NORTH COUNTY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Pres: Margaret Case 760-721-8422
4th Sun - 1:00 pm, Ecke Building
Quail Gardens

CACTUS & SUCCULENT

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT

SOCIETY

4th Sat - 12:15 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr, Escondido

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND

SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Pres: Mark Fryer 619-795-1020

2nd Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado

CAMELLIA

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Pres: E. C. (Gene) Snooks 858-454-6659

3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

Meetings Nov through Apr ONLY

DAHLIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

Pres: David J. Tooley 858-672-2593

E-mail: djsj21643@aol.com

4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Contact: Gary Colby 858-566-0503

1st Sat - 10:00 am, Sep thru May

Quail Gardens

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

Pres: Phil Peck 619-491-9495

Website: www.epiphyllum.com

2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY

Pres: Sherry Worthen 858-278-2017

3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

Chair: David Silverstein 619-523-8565

4th Thu - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

Nov & Dec ONLY, 3rd Thu

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY

Pres: Jim Budlove 619-287-6299

2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

HERB

THE HERB CLUB

Pres: Judy Dunning 619-579-0222

1st Wed - 7:00 pm, Balboa Park, Casa del

Prado, Room 101, no meeting July or December

IRIS

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES

IRIS SOCIETY

Pres: Ted Howse 619-479-3887

2nd Sun - 1:00 pm

Call for newsletter and location

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

IRIS SOCIETY

Pres: Eileen Fiumara 818-986-4188

1st Thu - 7:30 pm -

Canoga Park Women's Club,

7401 Jordan, Canoga Park

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER 619-685-7321

3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Pres: Yolanda Fleet 760-745-1219

4th Mon - 2:00 pm - Rancho Bernardo

Library (new), 2nd floor

ORCHID

SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY

A BRANCH OF THE CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF

AMERICA, INC.

Vice Pres: Bruce Kidd 909-698-3061

3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Carlsbad Women's Club

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

Pres: Gary Pierwola 619-426-9108

E-mail: keikiman@aol.com

1st Tues - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

ORGANIC

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Ron Nordfelt 619-475-8086

4th Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church

at 4701 Sweetwater Road. Meeting in back.

EXCEPT Aug & Dec

PLUMERIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY

Pres: Joy Herzog 619-443-4795

4th Sun - 1:00 pm-3:00 pm, Feb thru Oct

Casa del Prado, Room 102

E-mail: c.herzog@att.net

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Karen Mannino 619-401-9625

Website: eastcountyrosetosociety.com

1st Sun - 2:00 pm, except Jul & Aug

Gardens of Members

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Steve Berry 619-235-0004

3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

EXCEPT Jan & Feb - 4th Mon

No meetings Jul & Aug

TREES

PEOPLE FOR TREES

Contact: Pat Stevenson 619-222-TREE

FAX: 619-223-8733

E-mail: adoglover1@juno.com

WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN

SOCIETY

President: Ed Simpson 760-436-3704

3rd Sun - Apr thru Oct

Website: groups.yahoo.com/group/sdwatergarden

E-mail: dc@pondplants.com

Call for meeting information.

AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Rosaleen Cox, Affiliates

Editor, *California Garden*, 1650 El Prado

#105, San Diego CA 92101-1622. Call

619-232-5762.

E-mail: membership@sdflloral.org

Deadline for May-June issue: Mar 31/2005

Are you aware that each affiliate group is

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New
Location

*The Coronado Floral Association
& the City of Coronado invite you to*

2005 CORONADO FLOWER SHOW
"Milestones: Celebrating 80 Years"

Saturday, April 16 1-5:30PM

Sunday, April 17 10AM-4PM

Under the White Tents on Orange Avenue
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\$3.00 Adult; under 12 and CFA Members Free

**Public is invited to enter all competitions
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